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Boy with Guitar

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BOY WITH GUITAR Michael Nguyen

A poorly lit stage stood in the corner, and sometime around 8:30 this young kid, must've been twenty-three or twenty-four, walked on and mumbled his name into the microphone. The two pawnshop speakers amplified his words and guitar to the rest of the bar. His music competed

**THE KID HAD WON US OVER.
WE BEGGED HIM TO KEEP PLAYING
AND PROMISED TO BE RESPECTFUL.**

against the roar of a busted air conditioner and the mindless chatter of bitter, weekday drunks whining about how the world had it out for them.

The kid must've gotten fed up because, after a while, he announced that the next song would be his last, and that after, we could all go screw ourselves. He had grabbed my attention. I had seen many bands come through that bar, and this was the first time I ever listened. The other ten or fifteen people must have been intrigued with his announcement as well because they turned their attention toward the stage. We sat and listened like civilized men.

The kid covered a lot of faded away folk tunes. He probably would have been great in the sixties, but by the time he was born, protest songs were